

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): A humidity-dependent antibacterial powdery composition characterized in that it comprises a volatile oily antibacterial substance and a water-soluble film forming agent and the behavior of release of the antibacterial substance is changed depending on humidity,

wherein said humidity-dependent antibacterial powdery composition comprises an aggregate of hygroscopic spherical-shaped capsule particles enclosing the volatile oily antibacterial substance, and

said capsule particles comprise a water-soluble film forming agent.

2. (Original): The humidity-dependent antibacterial powdery composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the volatile oily antibacterial substance is an isothiocyanate ester.

3. (Original): The humidity-dependent antibacterial powdery composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the water-soluble film forming agent is gum arabic.

4. (Original): The humidity-dependent antibacterial powdery composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the composition further comprises a powder vehicle.

5. (Original): The humidity-dependent antibacterial powdery composition according to Claim 1, characterized in that the composition shows the behavior of release wherein the releasing ratio of the volatile oily antibacterial substance at 100% humidity is 1.5 times or more than the releasing ratio of the volatile oily antibacterial substance at 75% humidity.

6. (Withdrawn): A process for producing a humidity-dependent antibacterial powdery composition, in which the behavior of release of a volatile oily antibacterial substance is changed depending on humidity, characterized in that a water-soluble film forming agent optionally together with a powder vehicle is dissolved and/or dispersed in water, subsequently a volatile oily antibacterial substance optionally together with an emulsifying agent is added to the solution and emulsified, and thereafter the obtained emulsion is spray dried into powder.

7. (Original): A humidity-dependent antibacterial food storing article characterized by carrying a humidity-dependent antibacterial powdery composition according to Claim 1.

8. (Withdrawn): A method of storing food characterized in that a volatile oily antibacterial substance is released from a humidity-dependent antibacterial food storing article according to Claim 7 toward food lying in an atmosphere of 70% or higher humidity.